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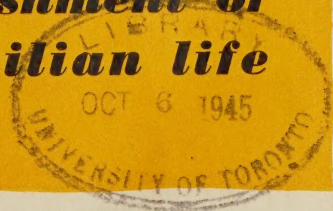
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[General publications]  
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# ***THE ROLE OF INFORMATION***

***in the re-establishment of  
veterans in civilian life***



[1945]

*Issued by the*  
***Rehabilitation Information Committee***



This booklet is for the use of those who are in  
a position to help inform the public about rehabili-

tation benefits, the machinery for providing them, and the social  
and economic problems of re-establishment.

This booklet suggests some of the topics on which information  
is required. Ways are suggested in which various sections of the  
community can help Canada's veterans to successfully meet and  
overcome the problems they face on their return to civil life.

## ***Everyone Has a Part to Play***

Canada's program for veterans is designed to assist the men and women of our Armed Services to re-assimilate themselves into both the economic and social sides of civilian life.

Rehabilitation is not merely a governmental activity. It must be a mutual effort in which government, industry, the community and the veteran all have their parts to play.

As the instrument of the Canadian public, the government provides finances, legislation and machinery to assist veterans in the transition from Service to civilian life.

Employers, trade unions and workers must all do their part to assist in the successful re-integration of veterans into industrial life.

Each city, town and village must do its part to help provide for the economic and social re-establishment of the returning veteran, so that they enter fully into the life of the community.

Each veteran must individually make the effort necessary in order to take advantage of the help offered by the rehabilitation machinery, and the opportunities available in civil life.

## ***The Role of Information***

Adequate information is essential to the success of Canada's program for the returning members of the Armed Services.

Information can help create the widest possible understanding on the part of both Service personnel and civilians of:

- ★ The problems of re-establishment
- ★ The responsibility of each individual, group and organization in the whole program
- ★ The *legislation* provided by the Dominion and the Provinces to assist veterans
- ★ The *machinery* by which provisions are made available
- ★ The concrete provisions, facilities and plans offered by communities, employers, unions and other organizations.



To achieve success, all must be aware of the problems, the legislation, the machinery and other arrangements provided to meet the problems, and of their part and the part of others in the whole program.

## ***The Legislation***

Canada's rehabilitation program is one of the most complete yet formulated, but it is neither charity nor reward for services. It is an attempt to provide the facilities for self-help.

The solution of the problems of individual adjustment on the basis of self-help is of the utmost importance to all Canadians, veterans and civilians alike.

The following is an outline of some of the main provisions designed to help the veteran help himself:

*Rehabilitation Grants:* To help them get established in civilian life, every veteran receives a rehabilitation grant of one month's pay and allowances of rank on discharge, including dependents' allowance (providing he served for at least six months); a clothing allowance of \$100; and a service gratuity of \$7.50 for every month's service in the Western Hemisphere, \$15.00 for every month's service overseas, and, in addition, seven days' pay and allowances for every six months overseas.

*Pensions and Medical Care:* Veterans who are in receipt of disability pensions will receive full medical treatment for their pensionable disability for life. All veterans may have free treatment with allowances for any condition during the 12 months following discharge, if treatment is authorized by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Those who are in need of continuing treatment at time of discharge receive it, and have their pay and allowances of rank continued.

Pensions are awarded for any permanent disability incurred overseas. If service is in Canada only, the disability must be a

result of service. Full disability pensions for all ranks up to and including lieutenants, flying officers and sub-lieutenants are \$900 a year, with an additional \$300 for a wife and allowances for children. Higher ranks receive higher pensions.

*Education and Training:* For those who will benefit by further vocational or university training, fees will be paid and a living allowance of \$60 per month for a single man, \$80 for a man and wife and additional allowances for dependent children, will be paid during the period of training.

*Reinstatement:* Those who wish to return to their peacetime jobs have a legal right to reinstatement in those jobs.

*Farming and Fishing:* If they have experience as farmers or fishermen, the government will finance the purchase of land, buildings, stock and equipment up to \$6000 and will pay them a living allowance until they harvest their first crop. The stock and equipment up to a maximum of \$1200 becomes a grant, along with 23 per cent of the cost of land and buildings, after the veteran lives up to his agreement for ten years.

A similar opportunity is available to city and other workers wanting homes on small acreages of land outside high taxation areas.

*Other Benefits:* Other benefits, such as awaiting returns benefits, out of work benefits, temporary incapacity benefits, civil service preference, coverage under the Unemployment Insurance Act, and Veterans' Insurance are also available.

## ***The Machinery***

The following agencies all play a part in the rehabilitation program:

*Armed Services:* Navy, Army and Air Force all provide counselling while the men are still in the Services. Educational courses are made available through the Canadian Legion Educational

Services, and men are advised as to how they can make use of their service trades training and experience in civilian life.

*Department of Veterans' Affairs:* D.V.A. is responsible for hospitalization and medical treatment of veterans, pensions, Veterans' Land Act, re-establishment credit, approval and financing of education and training courses, Veterans' Insurance, payments while awaiting returns from enterprise, while out of work, temporarily ill, etc. D.V.A. also provides a widespread post-discharge counseling service, and has set up offices to take care of veterans welfare, and citizens committees, to look after re-assimilation in the community. In general it administers all veterans' legislation, with the exception of that dealing with employment.

*Department of Labour:* The Department of Labour is responsible for enforcing the reinstatement-in-employment provisions, and for co-operation in arranging vocational training; it takes care of training on the job, and through its employment offices arranges for jobs for veterans.

*Department of Reconstruction:* This newly-formed department will co-operate with industry and will co-ordinate government plans to ensure a high level of employment in postwar Canada.

*Citizens' Committees:* In communities across Canada, volunteer citizens' committees are being formed to welcome veterans home and provide them with needed information and advice.

*Industry:* Alert industries are making special preparation to re-employ men and women who left to join the Services. They are also planning to add to their staffs other veterans not previously employed by them. Plans include special training programs, job surveys, and special consideration in cases of disabled veterans.

*Trade Unions:* Trade unions have their responsibilities to see that returning workers are reinstated with their full rights and privileges. They also provide for the training and the entrance into industry of veterans who were not employed prior to enlistment.



## ***Employment***

The key to the success of the whole rehabilitation program is a high level of employment.

Veterans know that, despite war service preferences, the unemployment of any considerable section of the community will operate to the detriment of the whole.

While Canada is determined to promote maximum employment, a number of factors are involved such as the state of world trade, international financial arrangements, and the rate of public and private investment, which are difficult to calculate.

In the changeover to peacetime production, it is not possible to estimate more than in a general way the relative demands for different types of skills.

Both veterans and the public should be well informed about:

- ★ Reinstatement in former jobs
- ★ Creation of new jobs
- ★ Job training
- ★ Plans by industry for achieving a high level of employment
- ★ Plans by Trade Unions for assisting in the re-establishment of returning workers
- ★ Co-ordination of government and industrial activity in maintaining a high level of employment
- ★ Personnel management, with particular relation to the study of the abilities, skills, personal qualities and problems of veterans.

## ***The Community***

In each community there are a number of organizations with duties and responsibilities in the matter of rehabilitation. These include: citizens' committees, city and town councils, Boards of Trade, veterans' organizations, service clubs, churches, libraries and schools.



With the return to peace, some degree of readjustment is necessary for all citizens, both civilians and veterans.

The normal readjustment required of most Servicemen and civilians is not on the same level as the major readjustment which will be required in the relatively few cases of severe physical injury or of considerable nervous disability.

In each community, information should be available on the following subjects:

- ★ Community facilities for welcoming home all veterans, and for their integration back into the life of the community
- ★ Changes in the community and home environment to which the Servicemen will have to adapt themselves
- ★ Changes in Service personnel to which the home and community will have to make adjustments or recognize
- ★ Community facilities for providing veterans with practical advice and assistance to meet their individual needs
- ★ Specific community plans for employment of veterans
- ★ The plans of community organizations with a special interest in rehabilitation: churches, service organizations, veterans' groups and others.

## ***The Veteran***

Because the whole rehabilitation program is based on the principle of self-help, veterans must recognize that their own personal effort is the basic requirement to make the machinery work.

Although the contributions of veterans have earned them certain preferences, they are not fundamentally a separate element in the community. To further the prosperity of the community, they must be considered, as they must consider themselves, citizens the same as others. If prosperity were found for veterans at all costs—at the expense of other citizens—such prosperity would be short-lived.

The efforts of veterans, like those of all other citizens, will be needed to succeed in the work of reconstruction. Veterans are

needed as peacetime citizens and productive workers for the reconstruction and future prosperity of Canada.

*The success of the national effort in carrying out the rehabilitation program is fundamental to Canada's postwar progress. The success of this program and the program of winning the peace depends on the whole-hearted collaboration of all groups making up Canadian life.*

For information consult publications on the subject contained in the Reading List. For further enquiries, write to:

Rehabilitation Information Committee,  
Wartime Information Board,  
New Post Office Building,  
Ottawa, Canada.

## ***The Rehabilitation Information Committee***

This Committee was appointed by Order in Council 8096, October, 1944, for the purpose of co-ordinating the information activities of government departments connected with demobilization, rehabilitation, readjustment to civil life and related problems.

The following departments are represented on the committee:

Department of National Defence (Army)  
Department of National Defence for Naval Services  
Department of National Defence for Air  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Labour  
Department of Reconstruction  
Wartime Information Board

Working in co-operation with the committee are the National Film Board, and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

A "Reading List" on the back cover gives publications prepared by the committee and by the various departments.

Reference works, pamphlets, radio broadcasts, posters and displays, films and other informational material are being prepared by the committee to meet the informational needs of the men and women of the armed services and of the Canadian public on these subjects.

## ***Reading List***

"The Commonsense of Re-establishment".

Rehabilitation Information Committee  
Wartime Information Board.

"Dismiss—But What of a JOB?"

Information Division  
Department of Labour.

"Vocational Training for Ex-Service Personnel".

Canadian Vocational Training  
Department of Labour.

"Back to Civil Life".

Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The Veterans' Land Act, 1942".

Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"The Community and Re-Establishment".

Department of Veterans' Affairs.

"How to Choose Your Post-War Job".

Canadian Legion Educational Services.

"Let's Consider Jobs" series.

Canadian Legion Educational Services.

"How to Start a Business of Your Own".

Canadian Legion Educational Services.

"Canadian Affairs" (see particularly "Civvy Street News").

Wartime Information Board.

### **Postwar Planning Information Series:**

"Rehabilitation of Service Men and Women", Nos. 1, 1-A to 1-G.

"Social Security", Nos. 3, 3-A, 3-B, 3-C.

"Reconstruction Planning", Nos. 4, 4-A, 4-B, 4-C.

"Housing and Community Planning", No. 5.

"National Housing Act", No. 5-A.

"Agricultural Reconstruction", Nos. 7, 7-A.

Wartime Information Board.

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